

# THE STAFFORD ROTARY HIGHLIGHTER

April 24, 2024



Rotary Club of Stafford **People of Action**

## April 24 – Delegate Joshua Cole



Joshua Gregory Cole (born July 25, 1990) is an American politician. A Democrat, he served one term as member of the Virginia House of Delegates as the representative of Virginia's 28th district. Elected by the Democratic Party of Virginia, Cole served as a member of the Democratic National Committee at the 2020 convention. Cole was

elected to represent Virginia's 65th district in the 2023 Virginia House of Delegates election.

Cole was born in Washington, D.C., and grew up in Stafford County, Virginia. He graduated from North Stafford High School and attended Liberty University for three years. He currently attends the University of Mary Washington.

He worked for Liberty University and Richmond City Public Schools. He was also a pastor and is the immediate past president of the Stafford County NAACP. Cole has also had many staff positions in the Virginia Assembly. Between the 2017 and 2019 elections, he was chief of staff to Delegate Kelly Convirs-Fowler.

In 2017, Cole ran for the 28th district in the 2017 Virginia House of Delegates election but lost to Bob Thomas by 73 votes. In 2019, Cole announced his campaign for the same

## Club Calendar

### April Is Maternal and Child Health Month

- ❖ April 24 – Delegate Joshua Cole
- ❖ April 27 - District Training Assembly
- ❖ April 27 – Relay for Life
- ❖ May 2 – Virginia Naturalists
- ❖ May 25-29, 2024 -Rotary International Convention in Singapore
- ❖ May 29 – Club Membership Conference
- ❖ June 30 – Installation of District Officers.
- ❖ July 13 – District Training for the new Rotary year. Membership and TRF
- ❖ July 14 – Installation of New Club Officers
- ❖ August 11-13 – District trip to RI HQ
- ❖ September 28, 29 -Via Colori
- ❖ October 4-6, 2024 – District Conference

seat in the 2019 election. He faced then Stafford County Supervisor, Paul V. Milde, who had defeated Thomas in the Republican primary. Cole won with 51.8% of the vote.

His 2021 re-election won the support of the LGBTQ Victory Fund, an organization dedicated to electing LGBTQ candidates. He also received endorsement from the Collective PAC, Joe Biden, Kamala Harris, and Barack Obama. Cole was defeated for re-election in November 2021 by Tara Durant. In 2023, Cole declared his candidacy for the redrawn 65th district. He won the seat in the general election.

## April 17 Meeting

President Jamie presided, and the thought-provoking quote by Rotary Founder Paul Harris was: "If there is anything worse than international warfare, it is civil warfare, and the United States was destined to experience it in the extreme of bitterness."

### Announcements:

- ❖ **Our April 27 social will be at the Relay for Life at Spotsylvania High School, at about 5 pm.** We will be walking in honor of Jack Poland.
- ❖ District Training is scheduled for April 27. Not only committee chairs, but any club member who hasn't attended a district training meeting is encouraged to attend.
- ❖ Club dues will be between \$150 and \$200 per quarter next year for regular club members. For special memberships the dues will be between \$75 and \$100 per quarter.
- ❖ Our board is exploring merging the Stafford Rotary and the North Stafford Rotary clubs.
- ❖ The District Awards Banquet is scheduled for June 30. Committee chairs are all working on the award applications.
- ❖ July 13 is the District Membership and Foundation Training for Rotary Year 2023-24.
- ❖ District Conference is October 4-6 in D.C.
- ❖ Please fill out the club member survey.
- ❖ On May 29 there will be a membership conference for our club.
- ❖ On May 1 there will be a Congressional Recognition Event at the US Capitol honoring the work for the eradication of polio. Ten people from our district are invited. President Jamie will be one of them, representing our club.

### Committee Reports

- ❖ Finance – Dues will be increased next year. There will not be a discount for



- ❖ paying the entire year's dues in advance.
- ❖ Club Service – Programs planned for the rest of the Rotary year.
- ❖ Youth Services – Donna needs some volunteers to help set up Relay for Life.
- ❖ Rotary Foundation – PDG Sandy presented President Jamie with his three sapphire Paul Harris pin.

## **Program – PDG George Atwell – The Life of Paul Harris**



PDG George talked about Paul Harris's life, with some surprising details that few of us knew before. Harris was born in Racine, Wisconsin. Paul's father was not a good businessman. At age three, when his family fell on hard times, Paul was moved with his older brother Cecil to Vermont to live with his paternal grandparents.

He was a mischievous child and not a good student. He attended primary school in Wallingford and secondary school in Rutland, where he played pranks and skipped class. He also attended Black River Academy in Ludlow but was expelled after only a few weeks because of a snowball fight. Harris enrolled at the

University of Vermont in Burlington but was expelled with three others in December 1886 because of his involvement in an underground society. He later wrote that although he was innocent of the alleged crime, the expulsion was nonetheless justified. Harris spent the spring with a private tutor and in the fall of 1887, he enrolled at Princeton University. His time at Princeton was cut short by the death of his grandfather in March 1888. He completed the semester but did not return to school the next year.

Harris soon moved to Des Moines, Iowa, where he was apprenticed at a local law firm. After completing his apprenticeship, he studied law at the University of Iowa. He graduated with a Bachelor of Laws in June 1891. However, for the next five years, he worked odd jobs from the East Coast to San Francisco and back east. His various jobs included: working in a rock quarry, for a newspaper as a salesman and a reporter, on fruit farms, as an actor and cowboy in Colorado, and on cattle ships that traveled to Europe. In 1896, Harris moved to Chicago, eventually settling in the Morgan Park neighborhood, where he lived the rest of his life.

Harris began his law practice in 1896 in Chicago's main business district and continued being active in this practice for the next forty years. After establishing his law practice, Harris began to consider the benefits of the formation of a social organization for local professionals. In 1905, Harris organized the first Rotary Club "in fellowship and friendship" with three clients and local businessmen, Silvester

Schele, Gustavus Loehr, and Hiram Shorey. His initial goal was solely to create a club of professionals and businessmen for friendship and fellowship.

The Rotary Foundation was founded in 1932. Paul Harris made the first contribution.

## **The History of the Stafford Rotary Club**



Nelda followed PDG George with a history of the Stafford Rotary Club, which turned 34 this month. She began by describing the process of beginning a new Rotary club and the history of Rotary in Virginia.

The Stafford Rotary Club was chartered as a member of Rotary International on April 11, 1990, with 28 members. The Rappahannock and Alexandria Rotary Clubs sponsored the Stafford Club. Graham Green was appointed Governor's Special Representative by

District Governor George Atwell to formulate the club. Graham Green served as the club's first President. The Stafford Rotary Club chose to be a lunch club to complement the already existing breakfast and evening clubs meeting in the area. The club admitted men and women members and dedicated itself to Service Above Self.

There was some laughter as she reviewed the many places where we have held our club meetings.

Shirley Heim was an outstanding member of our club. She was the driving force behind many of our legacy projects: Interact clubs, the University of Mary Washington's Rotaract Club, Annual support of ShelterBox USA, and Relay for Life.

Community Service projects have long been a cherished tradition of this club. We have continued some of these projects and discontinued some others: "Christmas in April" housing rehab assistance began in the '90s and continued annually for many years. Cleaning up the Rappahannock River also provides physical opportunities for our club members, as well as benefits to the entire community. Members also served as volunteer readers in the schools. Our club assisted in the building of a playground for the Old Forge community, one at Hope House in Fredericksburg, as well as a playground for handicapped children in Spotsylvania. For several years our club held a prom for Senior Citizens, assisted by the UMW Rotaract Club.

Nelda also discussed some Club Service practices that have been lost over the years: the weekly opinion poll, the Rose Bowl Float fines, the Wheel of Fines, Yard Sales, costume parties, and Christmas Caroling on the Fredericksburg Trolley.

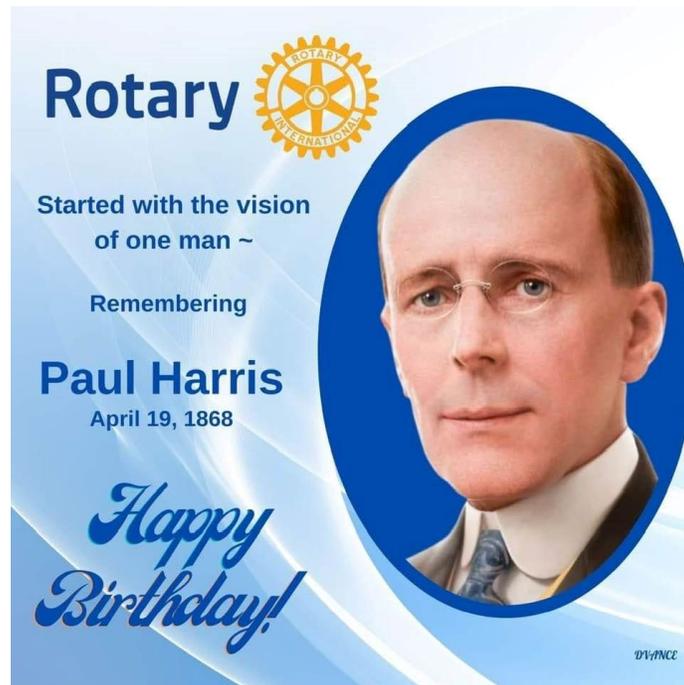


She also discussed some past International Service projects: Group Study Exchange, Open World, International Officers Sponsorship, and building houses in El Progreso, Honduras.

In December 2007 President George W. Bush was our keynote speaker for our noon luncheon meeting. This event was certainly the highlight of our club's history.

Nelda concluded with a picture of President Jamie joining the club 12 years ago. He was the youngest new member in our club's history.

Since we were celebrating our club birthday, there was a birthday cake. Thank you, PDG Sandy.



## Relay for Life – This Saturday! Spotsylvania High School

Relay For Life is the world's largest volunteer-based fundraising event. For more than 36 years, communities across the world have come together to honor and remember loved ones and take action for lifesaving change. Our club has been sponsoring Relay for Life teams for over twenty years.

Michael is setting up our club tent at 11 am. He needs some help!  
The Opening Ceremony is at 1 pm. Our bead table will be set up all day. We need volunteers to sell bracelet and necklace strings and then give out free beads for every lap walked.

Our Stafford Rotary Social for April will be held at Relay for Life, starting at 5:30. Come have some pizza and be part of a group photo to send to Leigh Ann and Jack - bring a lawn chair. We are pledging our support to Jack and Leigh Ann as they travel this difficult journey. Stay until dark and walk the track once the lights are off and the luminaries light the way - it is beautiful and inspiring.

Bring cans of food to support the food drive, and we need them to anchor down our luminary bags! So far, I think Donna has gotten pledges for more than 50 bags. That is a lot of cans - so please do your part and support this wonderful cause.

Donna has set a goal of raising \$1,000 to help fund research for fighting cancer. Her personal goal is for EVERY member of the Stafford Club to at least donate \$10 for a luminary bag with Jack's photo to honor and support him on his journey. Donna will have forms available and can help with your donations at our Rotary meeting this Wednesday evening at Paradise!

